

## POSTAL SAVINGS BILL A MENACE

President of State Bankers Denounces It at Meeting at Old Point.

### FAVORS STRICT STATE LAWS

Many Virginia Financiers Are Present at the Annual Gathering.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
HAMPTON, VA., May 20.—(The above) 150 delegates from all sections of the state in attendance, the sixteenth annual session of the Virginia Bankers' Association convened in the ballroom of the Hotel Chamberlin this morning. The association will hold a three days' convention, adjourning after the annual election of officers Saturday morning.

The ballroom was prettily decorated for the bankers. A number of women are attending the convention. Tomorrow evening the annual banquet will be given in the Chamberlin dining-room.

When President Joseph Stebbins, of South Boston, rapped the convention to business shortly after 10 o'clock this morning the large hall was well filled with the delegates and visitors to the convention. The report of the president was the most interesting feature of the first session, owing to the many very important recommendations it contained. The report was read after the convention had adjourned to an inspiring prayer by the Rev. F. C. Stinner, rector of Christ Church, Norfolk.

One of the most interesting parts of the report of President Stebbins was his recommendation that the members of the Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Banking be admitted to membership in the Virginia association. The president also favored the idea of reducing the number of vice-presidents from nine to five, scorched the postal savings bank plank in the Republican party declaration of principles, and severely roasting the idea of guaranteeing bank deposits as advocated in the Democratic platform. Mr. Stebbins gave much space in his report to the two matters of interest to banks throughout the country as contained in the platforms of the two great parties.

**Tribute to Farmers.**  
Mr. Stebbins paid a high tribute to the farmers of the State of Virginia and urged the bankers to encourage agricultural pursuits. His report contained many interesting facts and figures of the great wealth of agriculture in Virginia.

In closing, the president recommended the establishment of a State bureau of banking and the passage of an act by the Virginia Legislature appointing State bank examiners, as outlined in the bill prepared by the legislative committee of the Virginia Bankers' Association.

President Stebbins announced the selection of the committee on resolutions, naming Messrs. H. N. Phillips, of Williamsburg; Charles Peppie, of Richmond, and R. W. West, of Harrisonburg, as the members.

It was 1:15 o'clock when the association took a recess for luncheon. The afternoon session was devoted to an address delivered by H. N. Phillips, of Williamsburg, who discussed State bank examination.

The final vote on proposed laws concerning State banks was deferred until tomorrow.

**Heated Discussion.**  
During the noon recess to-day the members of the association who are connected with State banks, met and discussed most heatedly the recommendation of the legislative committee on laws governing the State banks. The bill recommends that a bureau of banking be formed, that State examiners be appointed and cover other features. The idea to impose a severe penalty for charging more than the regular rate of 6 per cent. interest, and compelling the State banks to retain a cash reserve of one-third of its total deposits, or at times were the objectionable features. Little banks in country districts would suffer, declared the delegates, for were burglars to know that a large cash reserve was in the safe, the bank would surely be in danger of receiving visits from criminals, who would guarantee a sum of money in event that the safes were blown open.

It was finally decided to ask the general association not to take final action on the State bank laws until the State bank owners can agree upon some desirable laws.

Secretary Gatling has provided handsome badges for the members, note books and catchy souvenir programs, while each woman in attendance is the recipient of a little powder box.

Friday is expected to be the biggest day of the convention, as several prominent out of State visitors will make addresses. Among these will be W. S. Williams, of Atlanta; J. C. Williams, of New York; superintendent of banks, of New York City, and Elmer S. Youngman, editor of the Bankers' Magazine, New York.

The address of President Stebbins follows:  
The membership of the association has reached its high-water mark, and more banks have been admitted to membership during the year than in any previous year in its history. The number admitted being twenty-four, bringing the total membership to 307 of the 335 banks and banking firms doing business in Virginia; and if energy, persistency and tact will avail anything, our secretary will have them all enrolled in a short time.

**Several Changes.**  
The executive council will recommend several changes in the constitution, the most important of which are: First, to admit Virginia chapters of the American Institute of Banking to membership in the association, and second, providing for five vice-presidents, instead of nine, as at present, one chosen from each of the five groups composing the association, who shall be the chairman of their respective groups.

Since we last met there has been a

becoming a mother should be a source of joy, but the suffering incident to the ordeal makes its anticipation one of dread. Mother's Friend is the only remedy which relieves women of much of the pain of maternity; this hour, dreaded as woman's severest trial, is not only made less painful, but danger is avoided by its use. Those who use this remedy are no longer despondent or gloomy; nervousness, nausea and other distressing conditions are overcome, and the system is prepared for the coming event. "It is worth its weight in gold," says many who have used it. Book of value to all expectant mothers mailed free.

**MOTHER'S FRIEND**

See BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO.  
Atlanta, Ga.

# ...THIS IS A REMINDER... To-Morrow, Saturday, at 5 P. M., Be at the Auction Sale of BREEZY "BROOKDALE" LOTS

See for yourself how wonderful the opportunity will be for purchasing a homesite or for making a profitable investment. Bear in mind that time is slipping by, and that the sooner you buy a home the sooner you provide for yourself and loved ones and shut off the salary-eating wolf RENT! Think, too, of the safe investment that this property offers to you. Money invested in a lot now means a dividend of forty to fifty and even sixty per cent. within a year or so.

### A Home Is Yours if You Want It.

This auction sale brings magnificent building lots down to a price within the reach of all. The liberal terms we make are so satisfactory that no one need wait longer. The proposition we make you to lend you money to build a house on your lot and let you pay for it with your present rent money leaves the entire matter with you.

The last obstacle has been removed. The road to a home is as plain as the road to market.

### You Cannot Beat the Location.

It is matchless from the point of well lying lands—from the standpoint of its easy accessibility—from the viewpoint of the discriminating homesite, who wants to dwell in the midst of beautiful surroundings, and among neighbors who are the best in the land.

You can take a street car at Laurel and Broad Streets on the Ashland road, and after paying one fare of 5 cents, reach Breezy "Brookdale" within five minutes. Or, you can accomplish the same results practically, if you take a car over the North First Street line at First and Broad Streets.

### Read These Pointers About the Sale:

One hundred and three lots were originally chosen to be sold at auction.

Several were sold at last Saturday's sale.

All remaining lots will be sold Saturday and on the following Saturday afternoons.

The sale will begin at 5 o'clock promptly.

The terms will be one-third cash; balance in six and twelve months.

Ladies are cordially invited to attend.

Car fare will be refunded to all persons attending sale.

A roomy tent, with comfortable chairs and an abundant supply of ice water for all.

Take cars over the North First Street Line, at First and Broad Streets, every ten minutes, or over the Ashland line, cars leaving Laurel and Broad Streets at 1:10, 2:10, 3:10, 4:10 and 5:10 P. M.

Lots at private sale if you wish at \$200 and up, on terms of \$10 cash and \$5 per month.

### Schools and Churches Convenient.

Buy a lot for a home in beautiful and breezy Brookdale and you will have all the conveniences of a modern school that is conducted in the best manner possible. The church privileges are very excellent.

In short, you have all the advantages of Richmond, with a great portion of the disadvantages eliminated.

Your family will be in the health-giving atmosphere of the country, but in close touch with the city and its varied opportunities.

### Remember the Prices Are the Lowest.

That you have to pay less for Breezy Brookdale lots now, but that they will surely and rapidly increase in value.

We want you to make price comparisons and also compare the advantages that these lots offer with other suburban property.

Many other places in and around Richmond have features that are unfavorable, and cannot be overcome.

In Brookdale you know you cannot be surrounded by objectionable people on enterprises. Ginter Park, Bellview and Laburnum-citizens are all around you.

## BROOKDALE CORPORATION,

M. R. FRITZSCHE, Agent.

Room 404, American National Bank Building.

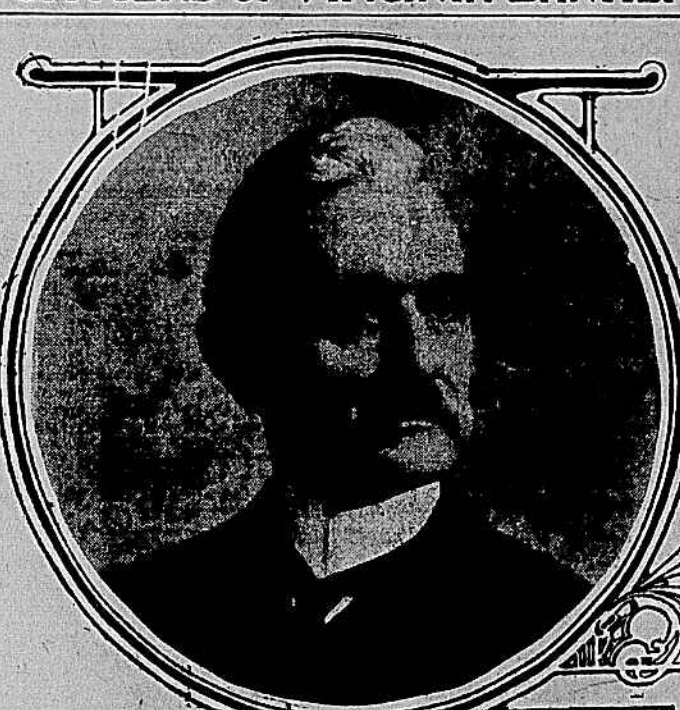
Phones 652 and 6063.

CHARLES A. NESBITT, President. ALVIN M. SMITH, Vice-President. IRVING E. CAMPBELL, Sec. and Treas.  
L. O. MILLER. WM. A. GREEN. MAURICE A. POWERS.

SIGN-CLIP  
AND MAIL NOW

Brookdale Corporation,  
American National Bank Building.  
Please send me full information  
about your sale.  
Name.....  
Address.....

## OFFICERS OF VIRGINIA BANKERS' ASSOCIATION



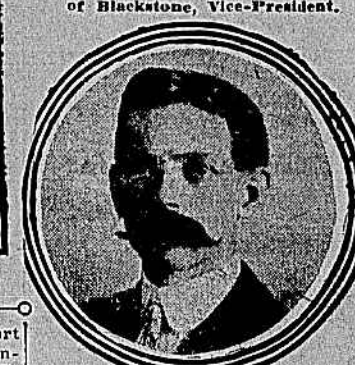
JOSEPH STEBBINS,  
of South Boston, President.



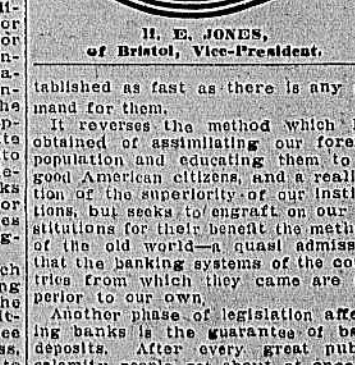
P. M. POLLARD,  
of Petersburg, Vice-President.



JOSEPH M. HURT,  
of Blackstone, Vice-President.



N. P. GATLING,  
of Lynchburg, Secretary.



H. E. JONES,  
of Bristol, Vice-President.



W. B. VEST,  
of Newport News, Vice-President.

gradual improvement in business conditions, but it has not been as great as we had hoped for or desired. The impression is general that the liquidation and readjustment of values as a result of the panic is nearly over, and that with the settlement of the tariff the improvement will be more marked. The depression has been confined almost entirely to industrial and commercial lines, the agricultural classes having suffered but little. If any, being blessed by Providence with abundant crops, which they have been able to dispose of at remunerative prices.

When we consider the fact that 82 per cent. of the population of Virginia reside in the country, the greater part of whom are engaged in agriculture, and the immense value of their products, it must be conceded that the farming interest is an important factor in our prosperity.

Agriculture has kept abreast of the progress of the age, and been able to adapt itself to new conditions.

It is no longer a "nigger and a mule," but as the negro laborer on the farm has disappeared, it is "mules and machinery." Better farm work is being done in Virginia than ever before. The farmers are reading and studying farm literature, agricultural reports, bulletins, etc., and are making intelligent application of this information in their work. The lands are being improved by rotation of crops and the cultivation of legumes, and a smaller acreage is made to produce larger yields.

The Commissioner of Agriculture in his last bulletin, No. 44, gives a comparative statement of the acreage and value of farm products in Virginia in 1900 and 1908.

In 1900 the acreage in cultivation was 1,040,335, and value of crops produced \$125,104,000, and in 1908 the acreage was 1,030,000, and value of crops produced \$204,000,000. Thus with a reduction of 18 per cent. in the acreage in cultivation from 1900 to 1908 there was an increase of 58 per cent. in value of crops produced.

"The value of the corn crop alone in Virginia in that period has increased from \$10,300,000 to \$20,000,000, or about 100 per cent. This increased prosperity of the farmers is reflected in the number of new banks organized in small towns and increases in the deposits of country banks.

**Review of Legislation.**  
I have thought that perhaps it would be well to review briefly the tendencies in various forms of legislation to banks, as this seems to be one of the important questions of the present, and one which will engage your attention at this meeting.

In national currency legislation, since the passage of the Aldrich-Vreeland currency bill, which has the disapproval of the bankers generally of this country, we are awaiting the report of the monetary commission appointed by the last Congress, which went abroad to investigate the monetary systems of the commercial nations of Europe. While they have not yet made any report, it is hinted in the press that it will be in favor of a central bank.

The most serious national legislation proposed at this time affecting banks is the postal savings bank bill. Such a measure has been before Congress in various forms for a number of years, but excited little attention or caused serious alarm. But the matter now assumes a much more formidable aspect from the fact that it is made a part of the platform of a dominant political party, and was urged and commended by the incoming President.

It is hardly necessary to discuss this measure at length, for so much has been published and so many able addresses delivered on the subject that every well-informed banker is familiar with the provisions of the bill and all the arguments in favor of and against it, and anything which I might say would be but a repetition of what you already know.

It suffices it to say that in my humble opinion this measure is a menace to the banking interests of the country, and should by all means be defeated. It is a dream of socialists and no doubt of well-meaning, but mistaken philanthropists, and has never been asked for or desired by those for whose benefit it is intended; a scheme to

make the thriftless frugal; an effort to engraft on our Republican government a system which is more applicable to monarchies, which use it for the purpose of obtaining a market for the bonds which represent their indebtedness (a function which the national banks perform for our government); to extend the functions of the Federal government into spheres properly occupied by the State or corporate and individual effort; to enter into competition with local banks for deposits and to take from local banks the money which is now employed for the development of their communities and deposit it in depositories designated by the Postmaster-General.

It is vicious in that it exempts such deposits from taxation, thus depriving the States and municipalities of the revenue from the money of their citizens; in making such deposits free from garnishment or legal process, thereby encouraging the dishonest to secure money which otherwise might be secured by creditors in discharge of their debts.

**No Demand for It.**  
Not only is there no demand for it, but there is no necessity for it, for in addition to the existing banks, the great majority of the national and State banks have savings departments, or issue time certificates of deposit bearing interest. It is error to say that there is a lack of banking facilities, for even in the newly settled portion of our country banks are es-

scheme which may appear plausible, but which is probably false in conception, impracticable in operation, and would prove disastrous in results. The scheme which attracted most public notice and was heralded most loudly is the guarantee of bank deposits. Its adoption in the platform of one of the national political parties perhaps gave it more prominence than it otherwise would have had.

This could not be a preventive of panics in the future, on the theory that in times of financial upheaval if depositors feel that their deposits in bank are perfectly safe there will be no disposition to withdraw them and hoard them at home or in safe deposit boxes.

It is a matter of no surprise that this was first adopted by the youngest member of the sisterhood of States, one not yet out of its swaddling clothes, and it is only a proof that in this age of rapid development the children are wiser than their seniors. It was to be hoped that it would be confined to the State in which it originated until, at least, its practical workings could be demonstrated. In this, however, we have been disappointed, for it has recently been adopted in Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota, and whether the infection will continue to spread only the future can disclose.

Governor Kitchin, of North Carolina, in his inaugural address vigorously advocated the passage of such a measure in North Carolina, giving as a principal reason the probability of the passage of the postal savings bank bill by Congress, which, he claimed, would drive the State banks out of business unless they were strengthened by the guarantee of their deposits.

**Appeals to Masses.**  
It is useless for us to shut our eyes to the fact that on its surface it is very plausible and appeals strongly to the masses of the people who have an idea that in the administration of the business interests of the country they are not getting a square deal. However that may be, they are honest at heart and amenable to reason. Much that has been said and written, both in favor of and against this measure, has been overwrought and better calculated to excite the prejudices than convince the judgment, and if legislation of this character is to be had where it is and discouraged in the future it cannot be accomplished by sneers, sarcasm, invective and abuse, but by cogent arguments which appeal to the reason, intelligence and sound common sense of the people.

I have great confidence in the practical wisdom and honesty of the American people; they may go far astray for a while, but will ultimately get back into the right path. I believe that the subject will excite greater interest or more discussion during our deliberations than the report of the committee to frame a banking law for the State.

This movement had its beginning at the meeting held at Richmond in 1905. At that time I had opposed any action on the subject because under the laws then existing there had been very few failures of State banks or depositories, and that there were no movement towards legislation on the subject there would be a disposition to conform so nearly to the national bank act that it would greatly increase the usefulness and efficiency of the State banks. The State banks have their own popular sphere in our financial system; they are pre-eminently for the country districts and small towns, and have contributed largely to the development and building up of the towns of the Commonwealth.

My opinions have changed since then, and now I strongly favor legislation on the subject. Nor do I think anything has been lost by the delay, as we bring to the task a fuller investigation and more comprehensive grasp of the subject, which will enable us to perfect a bill that will more fully meet the demands of the banking institutions, and the public than any bill we might have framed at that time.

The matter came up again at your meeting in 1908 and a committee was appointed to draft a bill breathing a bureau of banking and providing for the examination of banks, with in-

structions to report at the next meeting of the association. Various causes prevented this committee from holding a meeting and carrying out the instructions of the association.

At the meeting at the Jamestown Exposition in 1907 this committee was continued, with the addition of five more members, with instructions to prepare such a bill and have it presented at the next succeeding session of the Virginia Legislature.

Thereupon this committee met in Richmond in January, 1908, and prepared a bill which was offered in both houses of the General Assembly, and referred to the proper committees, but lack of time prevented further action.

The report of the committee and copy of the bill will be found in the minutes of the last meeting of the association. At your last meeting a new committee was appointed to prepare a banking bill and have the same in tentative form distributed to the members of the association by April 1, 1909, in order that they might have an opportunity of examining it before it came before the association for consideration.

The committee met in Richmond on January 7, 1909, and organized by electing George B. Vest, of Newport News, chairman, and proceeded at once to perform the duties entrusted to them. The question arose whether they should draft a bill providing only for the creation of a bureau of banking and the machinery for bank examinations, or should draft a complete code of banking laws for the State, repealing all laws now in force on the subject. After much consideration the latter course was decided on.

**More Stringent Regulations.**  
Recent unfortunate developments in banking in our State have emphasized the fact that more stringent regulations than exist at present will be required to prevent their recurrence, and many other questions should be dealt with which could not be embraced in a bill simply providing for bank examinations. In fact, our present laws on the subject of banking are so meagre and fragmentary that Virginia needs a complete, up-to-date code of banking laws, which will meet present conditions and provide for future contingencies.

This bill was sent to the members of the association by April 1, 1909, accompanied by a circular letter requesting a careful examination and inviting such criticism and suggestions as any one might see fit to make. The committee held a subsequent meeting to consider all objections and suggestions, in order that the bill when presented to the association might reflect the mind of its members.

If the bill when presented by the committee is such as not to meet with your approval, I earnestly hope that you may all arrange for a frank and open spirit to perfect it. The subject cannot be longer deferred. The bankers of the State desire legislation, the people demand it. The next General Assembly will take some action on the subject, and you must determine either to co-operate with the General Assembly in framing such a bill, or to meet the demands of the situation, or accept such as it shall give you without your counsel and aid.

In order that the matter may be considered deliberately and without haste, I have arranged for the order of business with the Secretary so the report of the Committee on Banking Law will be made the first order at the afternoon session to-day.

Again I heartily welcome each of you and hope the sincere wish that your deliberations may be marked by that courtesy, forbearance and harmony which have always characterized them, and your conclusions may promote the welfare and prosperity of the important interests which you represent.

**CASTORIA**  
For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson